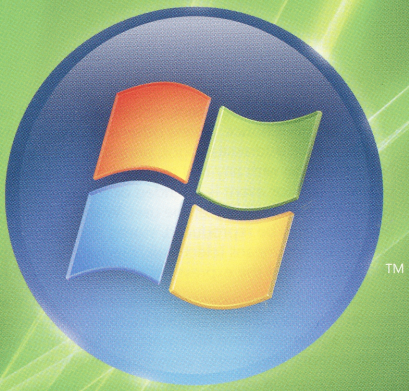
Quick Start Guide

For distribution with a new "MICRO-STAR INT'L CO" PC only

0801 Part No. X08-42664

Windows Vista™ Home Premium



For distribution only with a PC

Contact your PC manufacturer for product support.

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Getting started

If your computer came with Windows Vista already installed, see "Setting up Windows Vista."

If you want to upgrade or install a clean copy of Microsoft® Windows®, see "Upgrading or installing Windows Vista."

GET HELP DURING SETUP

While setting up Windows Vista, look for links to helpful information such as how to set up user accounts.

USER ACCOUNTS

When you set up Windows, you will create one user account. You can add more user accounts from the Welcome Center or User Accounts in Control Panel once you start using Windows.

Setting up Windows Vista

If your computer came with Windows Vista already installed—for example, if you purchased it from a computer manufacturer—follow these steps:

1. Assemble your computer according to the computer manufacturer's instructions.
2. Turn on your computer and follow the instructions on each page.
3. When you finish setting up Windows, you'll see the Windows desktop and the Welcome Center on your screen. The Welcome Center can help you get started using Windows. To learn more, see the chapter titled "The Welcome Center" in this guide.

Upgrading or installing Windows Vista

You can choose to upgrade to Windows Vista or install a new, or "clean," copy.

Before you begin, make sure to:

- Check the Windows Vista package to make sure your computer meets the system requirements.
- Check the front of the package to see if you have an upgrade copy of Windows Vista.
- Have your Windows Vista installation disc ready.
- Decide whether to install a 32-bit or 64-bit edition of Windows Vista. For more information, go to windowsvista.com/64-bit.
- Find your 25-character Windows product key on the disc holder inside the Windows Vista package.
- Update your antivirus program (if necessary), run it, and then disable it.
- If your computer will be on a network, write down the name of your computer.
- Back up your files to an external hard disk, a DVD or CD, a USB flash drive, or a network folder.
- Have a working Internet connection so you can get the latest updates for installation. If you don't have an Internet connection, you can still upgrade or install Windows Vista.

CAN YOUR COMPUTER RUN WINDOWS VISTA?
Use Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor to help determine if your computer can run Windows Vista. Insert the installation disc. On the **Install Windows** page, click **Check compatibility online**.

MORE INSTALLATION INFORMATION
Find information about advanced installation in "What to know before installing Windows" on the Install Windows page.

TURN OFF SERIAL KEY DEVICES

Windows Vista does not support Serial Key devices. If you are upgrading and you currently use Serial Keys with an alternative input device, you must turn off Serial Keys and install another input option before the upgrade. To turn off Serial Keys in Windows XP, open Accessibility Options in Control Panel. For more information, go to the Microsoft Accessibility website (www.microsoft.com/enable).

Upgrading to Windows Vista

Choose to upgrade if:

- You want to keep your current files, settings, and programs.
- Your current version of Windows can be upgraded to Windows Vista. For more information about upgrading to Windows Vista, including upgrade paths, go to Windows Online Help and Support (windowshelp.microsoft.com) and search for "upgrade."

1. With your current version of Windows running, insert the Windows Vista installation disc into your computer's CD or DVD drive.

   ⚠ **Important:** To use your upgrade copy of Windows Vista, you must start the upgrade while running your existing version of Windows.

2. On the **Install Windows** menu, click **Check compatibility online** to run the Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor. If Upgrade Advisor shows that your computer can run Windows Vista, on the **Install Windows** menu, click **Install now**. Continue following the instructions on each page.
3. On the **Which type of installation do you want?** page, click **Upgrade**.
4. When you finish the upgrade, you'll see the Windows desktop and the Welcome Center on your screen. The Welcome Center can help you get started using Windows. To learn more, see the chapter titled "The Welcome Center" in this guide.

Installing Windows Vista

Choose to do a clean installation if:

- Your current operating system cannot be upgraded to Windows Vista.
- Your computer has no operating system installed.
- You don't want to keep your existing files, settings, and programs.
- You want to install Windows Vista on a specific partition.

1. Turn on your computer and insert the Windows Vista installation disc into your computer's CD or DVD drive.

   ⚠ **Important:** If you have an upgrade copy of Windows Vista, you must start the installation while running your existing version of Windows. You can still perform a clean installation by choosing **Custom** during the installation process.

2. Do one of the following:

   - If your computer already has an operating system installed and you don't want to create partitions, go to step 3.

PARTITION

A partition is part of a computer hard disk that functions like a separate disk. Separate formatted partitions share your computer's storage space. Partitions allow you to install more than one operating system on your computer.

TROUBLESHOOT INSTALLATION
For resolutions to some common problems with installing Windows, go to Windows Online Help and Support (windowshelp.microsoft.com) and search for "troubleshoot Windows installation."

- If your computer has no operating system installed, or if you want to create, extend, delete, or format partitions, you need to restart your computer while the installation disc is inserted in the CD or DVD drive. Your computer will then start from the installation disc. Note that you cannot do this if you have an upgrade copy of Windows Vista. If you are asked to press a key to start from CD or DVD, press any key. If the Install Windows page is displayed, go to step 3.

If the Install Windows page is not displayed and you're not asked to press a key to start from CD or DVD, you might have to specify that your computer use its CD or DVD drive as the startup device. To learn how to do that, go to Windows Online Help and Support (windowshelp.microsoft.com) and search for "start Windows from CD or DVD."

3. On the **Install Windows** menu, follow any instructions that are displayed, and then click **Check compatibility online** to run the Windows Vista Upgrade Advisor. If Upgrade Advisor shows that your computer can run Windows Vista, on the **Install Windows** menu, click **Install now**.
4. Continue to follow the instructions on each page.
5. On the **Which type of installation do you want?** page, click **Custom**.

6. On the **Where do you want to install Windows?** page, do one of the following:
   - If you don't want to install Windows on a specific partition or create partitions on your hard disk, click **Next** to begin the installation.
   - If you do want to install Windows on a specific partition and have an existing partition with enough free space, select the partition you want to use, and then click **Next** to begin the installation.
   - If you want to create, extend, delete, or format a partition and you have started Windows from the installation disc, click **Drive options (advanced)**, click the option you want, and then follow the instructions.
7. When you finish the installation, you'll see the Windows desktop and the Welcome Center on your screen. The Welcome Center can help you get started using Windows. To learn more, see the chapter titled "The Welcome Center" in this guide.
8. Be sure to re-enable your existing antivirus software or install new antivirus software after the installation is complete.

SECURITY CHECKLIST

1. Turn on a firewall.
2. Turn on automatic updating.
3. Install antivirus software and keep it up to date.
4. Turn on Windows Defender.
5. Check your computer's security status.

   To do this, go to Security Center. (Click the **Start** button, click **Control Panel**, click **Security**, and then click **Security Center**.)

The Welcome Center

The first time you see the Windows Vista desktop, you'll see the Welcome Center. Here you'll find useful links to help you get started using Windows.

Computer details

The first thing you'll see in the Welcome Center is information about your computer and user account, such as:

- Your computer's name
- Your user name and picture
- The type of video card you have
- Your edition of Windows Vista

Add users

Each person using your computer can have a user account. With user accounts, each person can choose how the computer looks and functions while they're using the computer. User accounts can also help improve the security and protection of your computer, and are required if you want to use Parental Controls.

Windows Easy Transfer

One of the first things you might want to do is transfer your files and settings from your old computer. You can do this using an Easy Transfer Cable, CDs or DVDs, a USB flash drive, a network folder, or an external hard disk.

You can transfer:

- User accounts
- Files and folders
- Program settings
- Internet settings and favorites
- E-mail settings, contacts, and messages

Connect to the Internet

Get connected to the Internet, regardless of the type of Internet service you have. If you don't have an Internet service provider (ISP), you'll get help with that process. If you don't know what hardware you need to set up an Internet connection, you'll get help figuring that out, too.

Control Panel

Control Panel is the place to go when you want to change a Windows setting. To find what you're looking for, type a word, such as *security*, *screen saver*, or *parental controls*, into the Control Panel Search box, or click the links under each category heading.

If you don't want to browse by category, you can switch to Classic view, which shows all Control Panel items.

Windows Anytime Upgrade

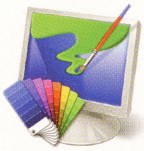
Windows Anytime Upgrade allows you to upgrade to Windows Vista Ultimate so you can take advantage of enhanced digital entertainment and other features. Windows Anytime Upgrade helps you compare features in each Windows Vista edition and walks you through the upgrade process.

Windows Basics

If you're new to Windows or want to refresh your knowledge about areas such as security or working with digital pictures, these articles will help you get started. Learn how to:

- Help keep your computer more secure
- Work with digital pictures
- Use the mouse and keyboard
- Work with files and programs
- Use e-mail
- Connect to and explore the Internet

Personalize Windows



Windows can reflect your personal style. To make Windows more personal, you can:

- Change themes, colors, and sounds
- Change your screen saver
- Change your desktop background and user account picture
- Change fonts

What's new

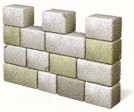
Whether or not you're new to Windows, you'll want to explore the new features for searching and organizing files, protecting your computer, viewing digital pictures, networking, and staying connected. Find things quickly, have fun, and focus on what matters to you.

Searching and organizing

Most folders in Windows have a Search box in the upper-right corner. To find a file in a folder, type any part of the file name in the Search box. You can also use this feature when you don't know where a file is located or when you want to do an advanced search.

Security

Security Center shows the status of all your security settings. From there, you can change settings for your computer's firewall, antispyware and antivirus software, and updates. Another security feature, User Account Control, can help prevent unauthorized changes to your computer.



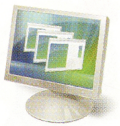
Windows Defender

Windows Defender can help protect your computer against spyware. When Windows Defender detects suspicious activity by unknown software, it alerts you to the potential threat.

Windows Internet Explorer® 7

Internet Explorer 7 includes tabbed browsing for viewing multiple websites in the same browser window, Phishing Filter for better protection from online fraud, and RSS feeds for getting updated web content automatically.

Windows Aero™



Windows Aero is the premium visual experience in Windows Vista. It features a translucent glass design with subtle window animations and Windows Flip 3D, which is a way to preview your open windows in three-dimensional stacks.

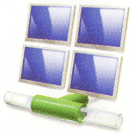
Parental Controls

Parental Controls give you the means to decide when your children use the computer, which websites they visit, and which games they're allowed to play. You can also get reports of your children's computer activity.

Windows Backup and Restore Center

Windows Backup and Restore Center can help you prevent data loss. You can make backup copies of your files and settings when you choose, or have backups made automatically on a set schedule.

Network and Sharing Center



Network and Sharing Center shows you real-time network status and links to network settings. Set up a network, connect more securely to public networks, monitor network security, and fix network problems.

Windows Photo Gallery

Windows Photo Gallery lets you view, organize, edit, and print digital pictures. Plug a digital camera into your computer and transfer photos to the Pictures folder. Then use Photo Gallery to crop pictures, remove red eye, and make other corrections.

Windows Movie Maker

Create home movies that you can share with family and friends. Windows Movie Maker has improved graphics, enhanced HD support, and new effects and transitions.

Windows DVD Maker

Easily create professional-looking DVDs with transitions and chapters that you can enjoy in your home DVD player.

Windows Meeting Space

Windows Meeting Space allows you to collaborate with other people nearby, share your desktop, and distribute and co-edit documents, whether you're in a meeting room or cafe. If no network exists, Windows Meeting Space will set one up.

Sync Center

Sync Center allows you to keep information in sync between your computer; network folders; mobile devices, such as portable music players; and programs that support Sync Center.

Windows Mail

Windows Mail is an improved e-mail program that filters junk mail and can help protect you from attacks aimed at stealing your personal information, and malicious software delivered through e-mail attachments.

Ease of Access Center

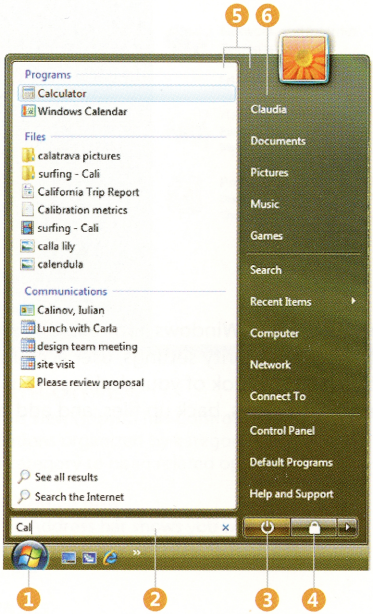
Ease of Access Center is the place to find and change settings that can enhance how you hear, see, and use your computer. You can adjust text size and the speed of your mouse. This is also where you can go to set up your screen reader and find other helpful tools.

Games

Enjoy four new games (Mahjong Titans, Chess Titans, Purble Place, and InkBall), as well as updated versions of games included in previous versions of Windows. Install and run all of your games from the Games folder.

Start menu

The Start menu is how you access the programs, folders, and settings on your computer. Use the Start menu for activities such as searching for files, starting programs, adjusting computer settings, reading Help topics, turning off the computer, and logging off from Windows.



1 START BUTTON

Click the **Start** button to open the Start menu.

2 SEARCH BOX

As soon as you open the Start menu, you can start typing in the Search box—you don't need to click inside the box first. As you type, search results appear in the left pane.

3 POWER BUTTON

Click the **Power** button to put your computer into sleep mode.

4 LOCK BUTTON

Click the **Lock** button to lock your computer without turning it off. Once locked, your computer cannot be used until you unlock it with your password.

5 LEFT AND RIGHT PANES

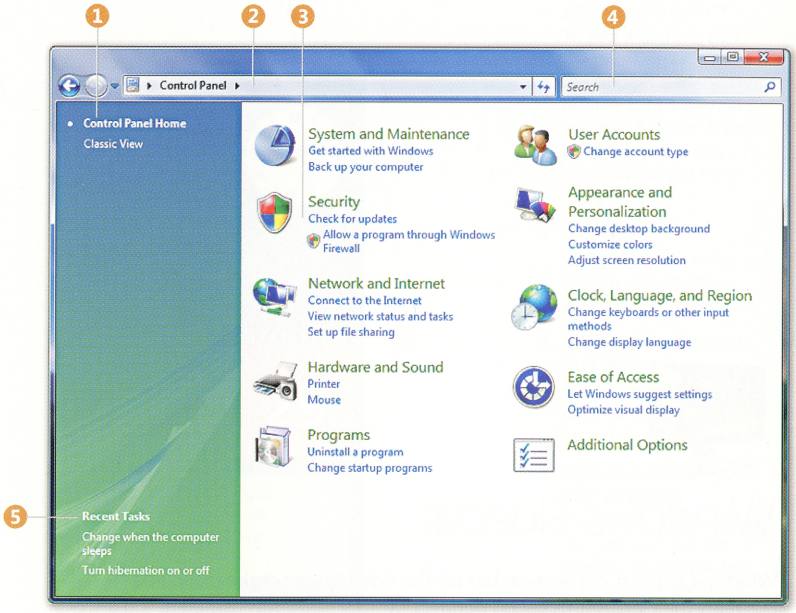
The left pane lists programs and search results. The right pane has links to locations that you're likely to use frequently.

6 USER NAME

This is the person who is currently logged on.

Control Panel

Control Panel is a good place to start exploring Windows. From here you can make changes to Windows settings, such as security settings, user accounts, hardware and software configuration, and the look of your desktop. You can also do things like check for security updates, back up files, and add or remove programs or hardware.



1 CATEGORY VIEW
This view (shown) has Control Panel options organized by category. Click a category to open related options.

2 ADDRESS BAR
The Address bar shows you where you are and the path you took to get there.

3 TASKS
Click a link to change the settings. For example, click "Check for updates" to open Windows Update.

4 SEARCH
Type words or phrases to find settings and programs that you want to open in Control Panel.

5 RECENT TASKS
This list shows the most recently changed settings. Items you've opened most recently appear in Recent Tasks.

Windows Sidebar

Windows Sidebar is a vertical bar on the side of your desktop. Sidebar contains mini-programs called *gadgets*, which offer information at a glance and provide easy access to frequently used tools. Examples of gadgets are the Clock, Calender, Feed Headlines, and Notes. You can rearrange gadgets on Sidebar, delete them, or drag them to your desktop. You can move or hide Sidebar at any time.

1 ADD A GADGET

To add a gadget, click the plus sign (+) to open the Gadget Gallery. Then double-click a gadget to add it to Sidebar. From the gallery, you can go online to get more gadgets.

2 GADGET

Use gadgets to keep specific information available at a glance.

3 CLOSE AND OPTIONS BUTTONS

The Close and Options buttons appear when you point to a gadget.

4 OPEN SIDEBAR FROM THE TASKBAR

If you close Sidebar, you can open it from the taskbar. Right-click the Sidebar icon, and then click **Open**.

Mobile PC

With a mobile PC, sometimes you're working on battery power and sometimes you're not. Throughout the day, you might connect to a wireless network, a corporate network, and a home network. Windows Vista is designed to help you connect to devices and networks, wherever you go.

Mobile PC

Windows Mobility Center

Windows Mobility Center is a single location where you can adjust settings that you regularly change on a mobile PC, such as display brightness, volume, wireless network settings, and presentation settings. You can also check network connectivity and adjust your power plan.

MOBILITY CENTER
Go to Windows Mobility Center to quickly adjust mobile PC settings that you often change when you move from place to place. (Click the **Start** button, click **Control Panel**, click **Mobile PC**, and then click **Windows Mobility Center**.)

Power plans

Power settings in Windows Vista are based on power plans that help you balance the tradeoff between battery life and system performance. There are three default power plans:

- **Power saver:** maximizes battery life by lowering system performance
- **Balanced:** adapts performance to your activity
- **High performance:** maximizes system performance, but sacrifices battery life

CHECKING BATTERY POWER
You can check battery status on the battery tile in Windows Mobility Center. Or you can use the battery meter in the notification area of the taskbar to check remaining power or change your power plan.

Presentation settings

Windows Vista includes a group of settings that you can apply when you give a presentation, to help keep your presentation from being interrupted. When presentation settings are turned on, your mobile PC doesn't go into sleep mode, system notifications are turned off, and you can choose to turn off the screen saver, adjust the speaker volume, or change your desktop background image.

WINDOWS SIDESHOW™
Use Windows SideShow to view e-mail and other information on your computer, even when your computer is off or in sleep mode.

Windows Meeting Space

With Windows Meeting Space, you can set up a shared session and work with up to 10 people nearby over the Internet, on a local network, or on an ad hoc network. If no network exists, Windows Meeting Space will set one up.

SLEEP
When your computer is in sleep mode, you save power. To put your mobile PC into sleep mode, click the **Power** button on the **Start** menu.

Tablet PC

The Tablet PC is a mobile PC that you can write on like a notepad. It can learn to recognize your handwriting. You can work more efficiently by learning how to use your tablet pen instead of a mouse or keyboard.

Tablet PC tutorials

Learn to use and get more from your Tablet PC with the Pen Training and Touch Training tutorials in the Welcome Center. (Click the **Start** button, click **Control Panel**, click **System and Maintenance**, and then click **Welcome Center**.)

Handwriting recognition

You can teach the handwriting recognizer how you write by providing handwriting samples. You can also turn on automatic learning to gather information about the words you use and how you write them.

Pen flicks

Pen flicks are gestures you can make with your tablet pen to quickly navigate through browser windows and documents, and perform editing tasks. For example, you can drag up or down on a page, or paste an item into a document—all with a flick of your pen.

Tablet PC Input Panel

With Input Panel, you can type information by using handwriting or an on-screen keyboard instead of a standard keyboard. Input Panel includes AutoComplete, back-of-pen erase, and more natural scratch-out gestures.

Touch input

Some Tablet PCs have touch screens. If touch input is available on your computer, you can use your touch pad to do many of the things that you do with a mouse or tablet pen. For example, you can move the touch pointer on the screen and open files and folders.

Pen cursors

On a Tablet PC, pen cursors give visual feedback when you perform tablet pen actions, such as single-tap, double-tap, and right-click. They make it easier to target small items, such as scroll bars and menu icons, or the edges of windows.

Snipping Tool

Snipping Tool lets you capture a snip, or screen shot, of any object on your screen so you can save, annotate, or share the image. You can then use the captured image in e-mail or any place where you can paste a graphic. (You can use Snipping Tool on any type of computer running Windows Vista.)

Windows Media Center

Extend your Windows experience to full-screen entertainment. Use Windows Media Center to access and enjoy all of your digital media.

OPEN WINDOWS MEDIA CENTER
If a remote control came with your computer, press the **Green Start** button on the remote. You can also click the **Start** button, and then click **Windows Media Center**.

Pictures + Videos

Enjoy photos and home videos on your TV, play photo slide shows with a soundtrack, and burn your photos and home videos or downloaded videos to DVD.

- In the picture library you can organize photos and perform basic editing, such as rotating or touching up.
- In the video library you can play movies imported from a digital video (DV) or high-definition video (HDV) camera.

CONNECTING YOUR TV
To learn how to connect your TV to your computer with other connection types, such as DVI, VGA, or S-Video, check the information that came with your computer.

Music library

The music library makes it easy to find your music. You can sort by album or artist name, album year, genre, song title, or composer. You can shuffle and repeat music, create playlists, burn playlists to CD or DVD, and start a slide show directly from the music library.

You can also play FM or Internet radio. Even better, you can search for and add music to your library from other Windows-based computers in your home.

Viewing TV

If your computer has a TV tuner, you can use Windows Media Center to watch, pause, and record live television. Windows Media Center is optimized for widescreen and high-definition TV (HDTV) and works with multiple TV tuners, so you can record and watch TV on different channels at the same time.

Depending on your computer hardware and location, Windows Media Center can work with a variety of TV signals—including analog and digital broadcast TV, and cable and satellite TV.

EXTEND THE EXPERIENCE
You can enjoy Windows Media Center on any TV in your home when you're connected to a Windows Media Center Extender, such as Xbox 360™, and a home network. And it's all HDTV compatible.

Use the Guide

In some countries or regions, you can use the Guide to browse up to 14 days of TV shows and movies to find what you want to watch or record. The Guide can help you find exactly what you want among the many programs now available in the broadcast, cable, and satellite TV lineup. You need an Internet connection to download and use the Guide.

- To start the Guide, on the start screen in Windows Media Center, scroll to **TV + Movies**, and then click **guide**.

PARENTAL CONTROLS
With Windows Media Center Parental Controls, you can block TV content and movies according to the rating type.

Using the start screen

The easy-to-use Windows Media Center start screen is where you select your digital entertainment.

From the Windows Media Center start screen, you can:

- Watch digital videos
- View slide shows
- Watch and record TV
- Access content-on-demand
- Play CDs and DVDs
- Listen to music and radio

If you want to use Windows Media Center with a remote control, a Windows Media Center remote control is required.

Getting help

Make Help and Support your first stop for answers to questions about Windows. Windows Help is all new—it's easy to read, provides quick answers to questions, and gives you the tools you need to fix problems quickly. To open Help and Support, click the **Start** button, and then click **Help and Support**.

BETTER WHEN CONNECTED
Always get the most recent online Help by clicking **Yes** the first time you open Help and Support. You can then check or change your status from the lower-right corner of the Help and Support window.

Windows Help and Support

Searching and browsing Help is as easy as searching and browsing the web. To find topics related to your question, type a word or phrase in the Help and Support search box. You'll also find tips from experts, links to resources, and more.

WINDOWS ONLINE HELP AND SUPPORT
Go to the Windows Online Help and Support website (windowshelp.microsoft.com) to get the latest Help content and links to related information.

More resources

For more information about Windows Vista, see:

- The Windows Vista website: microsoft.com/windowsvista
- Guides, books, and interactive learning tools from Microsoft: mspress.microsoft.com
- Microsoft Knowledge Base articles: support.microsoft.com
- Microsoft TechNet: microsoft.com/technet

For product support, contact your PC manufacturer.

Technical support packages from Microsoft

To learn more about professional support packages from Microsoft, go to the Microsoft Help and Support Center website at: support.microsoft.com/vistahomepremiumoffer

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